Revamping of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1921. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp poverty alleviation programmes in view of the fact that large chunks of funds go down annually to the drain without reaching those below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the Comptroller and Auditor General's report pointing out Centre's apathy either to take up responsibility or transfer these schemes totally to the States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) The major poverty alleviation Programmes like the Swamjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) have been launched from April, 1999 after revamping their erstwhile corresponding Programmes. The SGSY, has been launched in place of the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) & Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY), besides the Million Wells Scheme (MWS). The major shift of the SGSY from the earlier Programmes is in respect of its emphasis on integrated approach and social mobilization of the rural poor through Self Help Group (SHG). The JGSY has been launched in place of the erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and is implemented now exclusively by the Gram Panchayats for infrastructure development at the village level. Similarly, the EAS has been now made allocation based from demand driven. The new programmes have also been designed, keeping in view, the positive aspects and the deficiency of erstwhile corresponding programmes.

The revamped Programmes are a little over two years old and at this stage it would be too early to consider any revamping of these Programmes.

(c) The implementation of the Programmes is a joint responsibility of the Centre and the States. While, the programmes are formulated by the Centre, the States are responsible for their implementation. At the stage of formulation of the programmes, the States are extensively consulted, besides experts in the field. Both are equally accountable for the poverty alleviation agenda of the country. The States also share the responsibility of the funds for all the Programmes *i.e.* in the ratio of 75% by the Centre and 25% by the States. The Centre and the States, therefore, are equally concerned about the quality of implementation of these Programmes. In view of the above and because of the federal set up of the country, the dual control over the Programmes is unavoidable.

Loans for constructing houses to rural people

†1922. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide loans at cheaper Tate to rural people for constructing houses;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken so far, in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of persons to whom funds have been provided on this account so far, in Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development does not provide loans at a cheaper rate to rural people for construction of houses. However, this Ministry is implementing a scheme, namely Credit-cum-Subsidy

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.